



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department**

**Date:** April 11, 2013  
**To:** Council Member Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole  
**Referral to:** City Council  
**Subject:** **One Minneapolis Fund Grant Awards**

### **Recommendation:**

- 1) Approve the following grants totaling \$62,000 for the One Minneapolis Fund program:
  - Conflict Resolution Center - \$22,000
  - Lao Assistance Center - \$20,000
  - Pillsbury United Communities, Waite House - \$20,000
- 2) Authorize the Neighborhood and Community Relations Director to execute the necessary contracts with the organizations receiving the grants.

### **Previous Directives:**

The One Minneapolis Fund was included in the 2013 Neighborhood and Community Relations Department Budget.

On November 16, 2012 the City Council authorized the release of a request for proposals for the One Minneapolis Fund and further authorized the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) to review the funding proposals and make recommendations to the Council on funding awards.

### **Department Information**

Prepared by: Howard Blin, Community engagement Manager

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Aasen, City Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters in Committee: NCEC Member Ishmael Israel, Howard Blin

### **Financial Impact**

Funding for the Program is included in the 2003 Neighborhood and Community Relations Budget.

## **Supporting Information**

The One Minneapolis Fund was created by the City Council in 2012 to promote socio-economic equity in Minneapolis by supporting diverse leadership development and community engagement by cultural organizations in the city. A total of \$62,000 was available from the Fund. The City Council designated the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) to prepare a request for proposals for the program, review the funding applications, and recommend the funding awards to the City Council.

This first year of the program was established as a pilot project to determine how best to conduct outreach to cultural organizations and to structure the funding criteria. At the conclusion of the first round of funding, the NCEC will prepare a report with suggested improvements to the program.

The request for proposals (RFP) allowed organizations to apply for up to \$25,000 in funding for projects beginning in 2013. To be eligible for funding from the program, an organization must be a non-governmental, non-profit organization serving residents of Minneapolis. In addition, the organization may not be a recipient of funding from the City's Community Participation Program. The program has the following objectives for organizations serving cultural communities in Minneapolis:

- Build social capital
- Promote socio-economic equity
- Foster partnerships
- Strengthen leadership
- Increase inclusion

A RFP was issued in December 2012. Notice of the RFP was distributed to Minneapolis cultural organizations, the Minnesota Council on Non-Profits, and in various community publications.

## **Review Process**

To prepare the RFP and evaluate the proposals, the NCEC established the One Minneapolis Fund Task Force. The Task Force was comprised of the following members: Ishmael Israel, Henry Jimenez, Kenya McKnight, Jeffrey Strand, and Tessa Wetjen. In addition, Kenneth Brown participated in the initial work of the Task Force and former members Maria Sarabia and Matt Perry also served on the Task Force.

The Task Force met in late 2012 to draft the RFP and prepare a system for evaluating proposals.

By the deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 24 proposals were received with requested funding totaling \$499,624. On February 20<sup>th</sup> the Task Force held the first meeting to review and evaluate the proposals. At that meeting the Task Force discussed the projects proposed for funding and ranked the projects based on responsiveness to the RFP and the project scoring system developed by the Task Force.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the Task Force met again and focused the evaluation on the highest ranking applications. The Task Force reached unanimous agreement on the applications recommended for funding. On March 26<sup>th</sup> the NCEC unanimously agreed to forward the Task Force recommendations to the City Council.

## Recommendations

The NCEC recommends to the City Council the following projects for funding from the One Minneapolis Fund in the amounts shown below.

*Conflict Resolution Center - \$22,000.* This is a youth leadership development program designed for low income Minneapolis youth of color. The program serves at-risk students and those who have been in contact with the juvenile justice system. Specific activities include youth to youth and youth to adult mediation. Leadership development, conflict resolution instruction, restorative justice mediation, and peacekeeping circles.

*Lao Assistance Center - \$20,000.* The program would provide leadership training for 32 members of the Lao community to develop the skills necessary to serve on the governing boards of non-profit organizations and neighborhood associations as well as City of Minneapolis advisory boards and commissions.

*Pillsbury United Communities, Waite House - \$20,000.* Funding for leadership development for 32 Latino residents of the Phillips neighborhood to increase involvement from the Latino community in neighborhood organizations and other civic groups.

It is also recommended that if projects for which additional sources of funding are required are unable to secure that funding, One Minneapolis Funds will be reprogrammed to other projects in a manner recommended by the NCEC and approved by the City Council.

In addition to the funding recommendations, the NCEC makes the following additional recommendation to the City Council and the NCR Department:

- 1) Given the high number of excellent funding proposals submitted for the program, totaling \$499,624, the City Council should allocate \$500,000 in funding for the One Minneapolis Fund in 2014. A possible source of funding is the proposed Community Innovation Fund called for in the 2008 City report on neighborhood funding the *Framework for the Future*. This fund was proposed to receive revenue from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District.
- 2) The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department should work with neighborhood organizations to explore use of neighborhood directed funding from the Community Participation Program to fund projects submitted to the One Minneapolis Fund which are aimed at increasing participation in neighborhood activities.

## Funding Applications

The response to the RFP, with 24 applications submitted, demonstrates the need for a program such as the One Minneapolis Fund. Included in this number were many excellent programs to increase civic engagement among underrepresented communities and provide leadership training for future community leaders.

A summary of the applications not recommended for funding is provided below.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Asian Media Access - Asian Community Engagement Team (ACET)	\$20,000	Capacity building project for the ACET.
Asian Economic Development Association	\$25,000	Capacity building for civic engagement and leadership development among Asian and Pacific Islander population.
Casa de Esperanza	\$25,000	Leadership development and community engagement support to Latinos in Minneapolis.
Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota	\$20,000	Partial funding for a civic engagement outreach worker.
Gardening Matters	\$22,600	Expansion of existing Shared Leadership Training program.
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	\$25,000	Promotion of civic engagement of immigrant communities on immigration issues.
Jewish Community Action	\$20,000	Leadership development and community engagement in foreclosure prevention program.
Metropolitan Economic Development Association	\$20,000	Funding for Pacesetters Program offering leadership development and business consulting expertise for business owners in Minneapolis.
Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration	\$20,000	Leadership training for organizations to engage volunteers from diverse cultural communities.
Minnesota 4-H Foundation	\$25,000	Funding for Franklin Community Project which involves engaging youth with residents and businesses along Franklin Avenue.
Minnesota E-Democracy	\$12,500	Support for One Minneapolis Community Engagement Innovators Network to create an online information sharing and discussion space for residents and community organizations.
Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network	\$25,000	Community organizing effort in select neighborhoods to bring together life-long residents with new immigrants.
Native American Community Development Institute	\$24,525	Training in community organizing for American Indian leaders.

Open Access Connections	\$20,000	Project serving older persons of color who are experiencing homelessness with health care, housing and digital literacy skills.
Pillsbury United Communities – Brian Coyle Center and Oak Park Center	\$25,000	Provide leadership training for a group of 10 African American youth from North Minneapolis and 10 East African youth from the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.
Pillsbury United Communities – Public Allies	\$20,000	Funding for the Public Allies leadership development program.
Twin Cities Juneteenth, Inc.	\$25,000	Youth engagement for the annual Juneteenth celebration.
We Win Institute, Inc.	\$25,000	Leadership training, inclusivity, and parent engagement work about on the issue of educational equity with parents of color.
West Bank Business Association	\$20,000	Provide business training for small, independently owned, or minority owned West Bank area businesses.